

great-grandchildren crawling at his feet or sitting on his lap. You never heard him utter an unkind word. So many precious memories: Christmas, Easter, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, parties and more parties. perch fishing, darts, his gardens, homemade gifts like the wooden horses that held address plates for our homes, Pearl and Wersell streets, his dog Puck.

I can recall how he went out of his way for each of us. He would make such an effort to meet me along the Lagrange Street Parade route, year after year. Always there. If Hollywood were to cast a true husband and father, brother and friend, they would cast Hank in the leading role.

You still will find him with you—in unexpected moments. You will know he is there, and everything will be all right. I once asked a holy woman why God gave such trials to people who are so good. “To make us strong,” she said. Hank taught us love, joy, and perseverance. He has been a man for others, who showed us how to love life.

May God carry his soul gently in his passage to peace. We know God joins with us today as we pray, “Sleep well my good and faithful servant.”

HONORING COLLEEN ANN MEEHAN
BARKOW, THOMAS J. MEEHAN
III, AND JOANN MEEHAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colleen Ann Meehan Barkow, who perished in the attacks of September 11, as well as her father and mother, Thomas J. and JoAnn Meehan, who still suffer from her loss. The following is a letter sent to my office by Thomas J. Meehan III, which I want to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY: Colleen was an employee of Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 103rd floor. Her partial remains, the upper torso, were found on September 17, 2001, the date which was to have been her first wedding anniversary. My wife and I continue to be filled with the anguish of her death, the manner in which she died, her unviewable remains, dismemberment and the tragic death she suffered.

I am writing you today in regard to the legislation you have introduced calling for a federal study to assess the historic value of the WTC footprints and to assess the appropriateness and feasibility of national monument status for that immediate area.

This legislation is important not only to the families of those who lost family members, but to the Nation and the world, for September 11, 2001 is another day that will live in infamy, and has altered the course of world history.

There are those who dispute its parallels in history, but they cannot be disputed. Gettysburg, the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Normandy are events which have so affected the world, and have preserved for future generations the places of the lives lost and bloodshed, so that freedom and democracy will continue upon the world stage.

These historic events have warranted a national preservation of where American lives have been lost and sacrificed. So that their sacrifices would be remembered for future generations, and maintained by a grateful

nation, is the reason why this legislation should be enacted for the lives lost on September 11, 2001; they deserve nothing less.

The preservation of the footprints of the WTC buildings and the surrounding area designation as a national monument is needed to ensure that we as a nation keep our pledge to “Never Forget”. We must secure the site and preserve for future generations the ground which has been become sacred and hallowed by the loss of the blood of all the victims.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. MEEHAN III.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. MORGAN
DESHAWN KENNON AND THE
101ST AIRBORNE

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sgt. Morgan DeShawn Kennon of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, who was laid to rest in Memphis, Tennessee on November 14.

Morgan Kennon and the 101st Airborne were called to duty in defense of this nation. They answered that call with courage and honor. Staff Sgt. Kennon was killed while protecting his fellow soldiers from an ambush in the Northern Iraqi city of Mosul. He was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his bravery.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Morgan Kennon and the brave members of the 101st Airborne, I would like to submit to the RECORD letters Staff. Sgt. Kennon wrote to his sister Nicole Crawford in Memphis, as well as two articles from the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Amidst the “devastation of war,” the clarity with which Staff. Sgt. Kennon expresses himself makes all of us proud. These letters help us better understand the trials endured by our soldiers and the courage they demonstrate each day. I would urge my colleagues to read Staff. Sgt. Kennon's letters and join me in paying tribute to this exceptional young man and all of the heroes of the 101st Airborne Division.

[From the Memphis Commercial Appeal,
Nov. 14, 2003]

LETTERS TO A SISTER

From the war in Iraq, Staff Sgt. Morgan DeShawn Kennon of Memphis sent letters home to his sister Nicole Crawford. He often spoke of Crawford's 12-year-old daughter, Kayla, and his mother, Paulette Crawford-Webb.

April 12, 2003

“I am in Baghdad now. I don't know where I may be when you read this but I will probably still be here. It's been very different here, Niki. The reason for the war, or the ulterior motives that the government may have, regardless of all of those things, the one true thing I can say is that these people were very oppressed and impoverished under the rule of Saddam.

“The welcome we've received in the cities and especially when we got here was unbelievable and overwhelming. The people here have even been giving us information about the enemy and the bad guys. Right now, we are occupying a school, that is where we are operating from.

“We have been staying in abandoned buildings and schools since we came into Iraq.

This particular one is in the ghetto of Iraq; something like the projects. But the friendly neighborhood closeness makes it peaceful, there are some bad guys that live near (here) that the people told us about, but we've been sniffing them out and they've been scattering.

“I have seen a whole lot more and more each day. Every since the city collapsed there has been a lot of looting. On our way to Baghdad we saw kids, women covered up, men, everybody toting furniture, rolling tires, dragging refrigerators across the street. And the children, they are the most friendly and beautiful of all.

“It's still not too safe for comfort but fortunately the Good Lord has been with us so far. I have kicked in a lot of doors, been shot at by snipers. I haven't killed anyone but we've captured a lot of people and seized a whole lot of weapons and stuff. I have seen firsthand the devastation of war and I realize that in war, someone always suffers, in this case, a lot of people. But I will say that this whole campaign has been very surgical and precise in not killing a lot of people (innocent). I will just be happy to get back home, safe and soon. I have been hearing rumors that we may be coming back soon and being relieved by another unit but when I get details, I'll let you know. . . .

“Just keep your head up and be thankful everyday that all of us are waking up and loving each other. I saw a man shot over here and it really let me know how quick and unsuspecting our days can come to an end. So keep going 90 miles per hour with your life and know that your brother loves you, respects you and is proud and honored to have you as a sister. . . .

“How is everybody? Tell all of your friends that I said ‘hi’ and testify to the church that I am very thankful for their prayers. The presence of the Lord is undeniable and obvious.”

April 20, 2003

“How is my favorite sister? Fine I hope. . . . I am so happy to hear and feel the effort that you are putting into your life. I'm proud of you and hope you can continue to take good care because you know that no matter how much hardship or struggle I feel or go through, I'm fine as long as I know that you and mom and Kayla are OK.

“By the time you get this I will be in Northern Iraq near the Turkey border. . . . And once again thank you for taking care of my bills. I told you in the last letter that I might be coming home soon. Well, don't count on that; no one seems to know anything. I'll keep you updated.”

April 26, 2003

“I'm still up north but we've relocated. We now operate and live in a post office. Can you believe that? It's not that bad though. There's electricity and running water here, which is a huge improvement over some of the places we've had to live in. . . . I can speak a little Arabic now (smiley face). The people here are not as dangerous and the threat level is not as high as it was in Baghdad and the other previous cities but we still have to stay on our toes even though the war is “officially” over there are still a lot of rebel forces and fanatics and loyalists of Saddam and the party regime. . . .

“So how's the family? I still pray for everybody every single day. I don't know when I will be back but I've heard everything from June to September. . . .

“When I know that you all are comfortable and OK, I can deal with being uncomfortable. Y'all's convenience means a whole lot to me. Well, enough about that. I realize that God will continue to operate and provide for us (in his sometimes “weird” way) as he has been so I won't worry about it. He will make